

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

At the present time, based upon the Final Office Action dated September 12, 2006, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-17 and 44 are allowed. Claims 97-100 are rejected. Claim 97 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lin. Claims 98-100 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin as applied to claim 97 and further in view of Miller et al.

In this Amendment Response, no changes have been made to the allowed or previously canceled claims. With regard to the four claims that stand rejected, claims 98-100 have been canceled. This leaves only claim 97 for discussion. Claim 97 has been amended so as to become a combination claim, reciting as one element of the combination the needle-guide device of claim 1. The added text in claim 97 includes all of claim 1, *verbatim*. The second element of this combination claim is the ultrasound probe of claim 97. While minor punctuation and text changes have been made simply for the flow of the wording, this amendment effectively makes claim 97 depend from claim 1. Based upon the allowable content of claim 1, claim 97, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Notwithstanding that this is a Response after Final, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment, indicating the allowance of claim 97, as amended, so as to pass this application to issuance with claims 1-17, 44, and 97.

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